

Appl. No. : 10/090,561
Filed : March 4, 2002

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Currently amended)** A method of improving an hydraulic binder based coating formulation for coating a building product comprising adding to said binder a dewatering agent, said dewatering agent comprising fly ash, wherein a first portion of the fly ash has a maximum particle size of around 10 microns and comprises about 5 to 30 wt.% of the formulation based on the total dry ingredients ~~of a larger size fraction and a smaller size fraction~~, such that after application of a slurry of said formulation to said building product, said slurry can be dewatered through the building product.

2. **(Currently amended)** A method according to Claim 1, wherein the dewatering agent is provided in a sufficient quantity to maintain porosity in the slurry ~~and the product to be coated~~ during dewatering.

3. **(Original)** A method according to Claim 1, wherein the dewatering agent is a particulate material.

4. **(Currently amended)** A method according to Claim 1, wherein the dewatering agent ~~is selected from the group consisting of~~ further including alumina trihydrate, silica flour, cenospheres ~~and mixtures thereof~~.

5. **(Original)** A method according to Claim 1, wherein the slurry has a water content of up to 50%.

6. **(Original)** A method according to Claim 1, wherein the coating includes fibres.

7. **(Original)** A method according to Claim 1, wherein the hydraulic binder used in the coating is selected from the group consisting of white, grey or pigmented cements, hydraulic limes or mixtures thereof.

8. **(Previously presented)** A method according to Claim 1, wherein the cements used in the coating are selected from the group consisting of Portland cement, blended cements, blast furnace slag, pozzolans, masonry cement, oil well cement, natural cement, alumina cement, expansive cements and mixtures thereof.

9. **(Original)** A method according to Claim 1, wherein the binder in the formulation is between 10 and 50 wt.% based on total dry weight.

10. **(Canceled)**

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- 11. **(Canceled)**
- 12. **(Original)** A method according to Claim 1, wherein the dewatering agent includes a coarser fraction fly ash having a particle size diameter greater than 100 microns.
- 13. **(Canceled)**
- 14. **(Canceled)**
- 15. **(Canceled)**